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LAMENT of the LAMB

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Volume 6 Kei Toume

LAMITY & LAMB

Manga
Serialized Drama
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As Shizuko, a nurse who worked at Dr. Takashiro's clinic, pieces together clues about his descent into despair, Chisuna and Kazuna try to resume their normal lives. Kazuna discovers the truth behind the need to avoid Yagashiro. Meanwhile, Chisuna finds an unexpected friend in Kozaki, who doesn't seem bothered by her illness. But back home, Chisuna continues to have disturbing dreams about Kother—a woman she hardly remembers, but whose past she fears will lead her to a heart of darkness...

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羊のうた

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A  **TOKYOPOP** Manga

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LAMENT *of the* LAMB™

VOL. 6

BY KET TOUNG



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO



10



My names are Kōshirō (Shōshirō) Shōmura; I was a child, my mother died, and my father was disappointed. He sent my older sister (Chigusa), and then, I left for my husband. I was raised by my mother's side. I grew up knowing about my father and Chigusa's real parent. Finally, one day I was told of Dad. I was disappointed with my friend, Hanagasa, who I thought was my blood-related parent. It killed me with tragedy. Depending on your family enough, it can really mean a lot of things to be a child. I was told that my father was a doctor, and I was told that my father was a doctor. Chigusa, having been, was raised in my long and long period. In my first and last part of my father's life, I was told that my father was a doctor. Chigusa, having been, was raised in my long and long period. In my first and last part of my father's life, I was told that my father was a doctor. Chigusa, having been, was raised in my long and long period. In my first and last part of my father's life, I was told that my father was a doctor.

I must defend. I mean to graph one paragraph. But it's odd to begin one now. While in the theme of another writer's passage, I told her about my strange dream. She was terrified and surprised, but asked me to think I hoped. I have the worst nights when I'm near you, so I must completely avoid her. It will be difficult to keep her at arm's length, since she cares so much about me. But I worry that she cares too much.

[illegible]

turning it to emphasize its side effects. More or less convinced it from Chagrin. After a collapse, Miragaia revealed to her at one father's old, now abandoned clinic, suspect that Miragaia convinced by feelings for Chagrin, and then moved her to avoid me in her deteriorating state. It's nearly possible to my situation with Miragaia. She told me that she loved me, but I shattered her, leaving her to go away from me for ever. Another.

Miragaia for a long period of time, I have a great need like me for the disease. The original from the clinic about Miragaia.



LAMENT *of the* LAMB

羊のうた

※ 6 ※

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話





WHAT'S
THAT YOU'RE
READING?



I'M FINE...
PLEASE DON'T
TREAT ME LIKE
A PATIENT

OH!
CHIDUNA,
ARE YOU
READY TO
BE UP AND
ABOUT?



HAHA



I FOUND THIS
BOOK WITH
SOME OF PAPA'S
OLD THINGS
STOWED AWAY
IN A CLOSET.

A
COLLEC-
TION OF
OLD NOVELS



BUT, LATELY,
I'M FINDING
MORE AND
MORE THINGS
I *JUST*
KNOW

I
THOUGHT
I KNOW
EVERY-
THING
ABOUT
HIM.

ISN'T
THAT
STRANGE?



THAT'S
FUNNY

I NEVER
KNEW WHAT
FATHER'S
FAVORITE
BOOKS WERE.



EXCUSE ME



.....
F-
YOU'RE
RIGHT



WELL, WHAT DID
YOU EXPECT? YOU
AND FATHER DISTED
APART, BECAUSE YOUR
RELATIONSHIP WAS
BASED ON DEPENDENCY
AND OBLIGATION--
NOT FRIENDSHIP









HE WAS
TAKEN A KID
AND CONVINCE
DANTE MAY
TO WORK FOR

I HEARD ABOUT
HIS DEATH
SHORTLY AFTER
I LEFT THE
HOSPITAL.



IT WASN'T
YOU OR HIS
WORK THAT
MADE HIM
DO IT.

SO
DON'T LET
IT HAUNT
YOU ANY
FURTHER.

.....

I COULDN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY HE'D WANT
TO COMMIT
SUICIDE. IT'S
HAUNTED ME
EVER SINCE.



I DON'T
KNOW

BUT IN THE
END, HE DID
SEEM TO BE
STRUGGLING
HEAVILY WITH
SOMETHING.



THEN---?
WHY?





In Japan, the deceased are often commemorated with a family shrine, which typically includes a wooden mortuary tablet. On the tablet are usually written the deceased's posthumous Buddhist name, their secular name and their date of death.





DON'T WORRY
ABOUT HER.
SHE WON'T
BOther US
AGAIN



YOU THINK
MIRAGE-SAN
KNOWS HER?



ARE YOU
OKAY?

I'M WORK OUT
I SHOULD BE
FIGHT ANGLE



OF COURSE
JUST NEED TO
TAKE IT EASY
I'LL BE UP
LATER



She came home by herself on the train.



Chiyori's been acting strange since she got back from that clinic.



Then Munee-san told me he wouldn't be coming around for a while.



IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, CALL ME IMMEDIATELY FROM THE PHONE. THAT.

LET'S JUST SAY CHIKARA-KUN WOULD WANT IT THAT WAY. BUT...



I wonder what happened?

*That boy. He
must be the
doctor's son.*

*He looks
so much like
his father.*



*And how
odd that his
own daughter
doesn't have his
mortuary tablet.*

*But...
Dr. Takashiro
never said
anything to me
about a son.*

*But why?
What would make
them do that?*



*These children are keeping
something from me.*

*Didn't she say
the gravestone was
in Japan?*



*...that they live alone
in that house while
their grandmother
is still alive?*



Fruit Market







THAT NAME
DOESN'T
SOUND
FAMILIAR

LAST
YEAR,
YOU
SAID?

TAKA-
SHIRO?



LAST YEAR,
A GENTLEMAN
DIED, HIS NAME
WAS PRIZUNA
TAKASHIRO

I WAS TOLD
HE WAS BURIED
AT THE TEMPLE
CEMETERY, BUT
I HAVEN'T
SEEN HIS
GRAVESTONE



*Then
again,
I'm not
surprised
she had
to say*

REALLY?
ARE YOU
SURE?



AM



THERE
IS A
"SHIZUNA"
BURIED
HERE

BUT I RECALL
THAT FIRST
NAME YOU
DON'T COME
ACROSS IT
TOO OFTEN

I DON'T
RECALL ANY
TAKASHIRO.

I REMEMBER
HIM CLEARLY
HE LOOKED TO
BE IN HIS 40'S
YOUR REGULAR
WIPPLE-AGED
MAN



"SHIZUNA"
THAT FIRST
NAME SOUNDS
A LITTLE



THIS MAY NOT BE THE PERSON YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

I USED TO SEE AN OLD WOMAN, MAKE HIS MOUND. STOP BY HERE TWICE OR THREE TIMES A MONTH, BUT... RECENTLY, I HARDLY SEE HER.



Ishikawa Family



OH, YES, AND, ONCE A MONTH, THIS GIRL COMES HERE SHE'S FREQUENTLY IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND SHE HAS LONG, STRAIGHT HAIR.



THANK YOU SO MUCH. I'M NOT SURE IF THIS IS THE GRAVE, BUT, ALL THE SAME, IT'D LIKE TO LEAVE THOSE FLOWERS HERE.



She
died...



He told me his
wife died a long
time ago. She
must be buried
somewhere else.



Maybe
he took a
different
name.



I wonder
why it's
so strange
he seemed
so devoted
to her.





おれや...



Someone's always
over.



CRASH!



LET ME
TAKE CARE
OF THAT!



CER-
TAINLY

I NEED TO
RE-PHONE,
DON'T I?



YOU'RE UP
SO SOON?
FEELING
BETTER?





AND
YOU KNOW
WHAT?

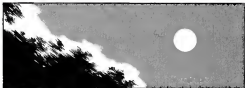
I REMEMBER
NOT BEING
VERY SEVERE
WITH ME.

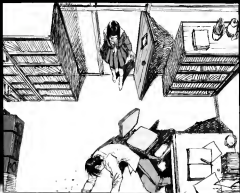
WE HAVE **NO**
CONNECTION TO
THE TAKAKAWA
HOUSE ANYMORE!



WE SHALL **NOT**
BE MIXED IN THE
SAME GROUP
AS THAT WOMAN
I FORGOT IT!













WE'LL TALK
ABOUT IT
WHEN I GET
HOME. YOU
TOO. GOOD
NIGHT

YES
I UNDER-
STAND

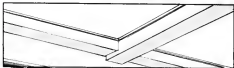


Why did
you and
your life?

Doctor





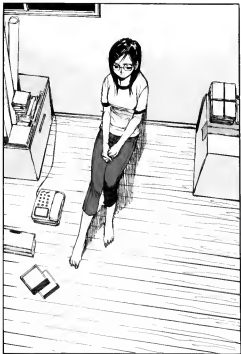


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*He was tired,
he said. I
guess he was
tired of living.*



*Even if
he'd told me,
is there
anything
I could've
done?*



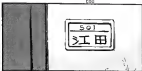
*If he was
troubled,
he didn't
let on
at all.*

*If I knew
the truth,
could I
take it?
I don't
think so.*

*...would
that change
anything?
The man
is dead.*

*Even if
I knew
the real
reason for
his suicide.*









RIGHT
AFTER I
FINISH
CLEANING



YOU SHOULD
GET SOME AIR,
TOO. THIS IS
SUPPOSED
TO BE YOUR
PAY OFF.



ALL
RIGHT,
BUT BE
SAFE OUT
THERE!

SURE, I'LL
SEE YOU THIS
EVENING.





UM... HELLO. I WAS
A NURSE AT THE
TAKASHIHO CLINIC
A WHILE BACK. MY
NAME'S KAZAMI!

I'VE MISSED-
SAR AND MY
HUSBAND
MY HUSBAND,
UNFORTUNATELY,
JUST LEFT AND
WON'T BE BACK
FOR A FEW
HOURS.

WE'RE FEELING
SADDER THAN
SCHOOL
DAYS.

IS THERE
SOMETHING
I CAN HELP
YOU WITH?

I'VE MISSED-
SAR AND MY
HUSBAND
WE'RE FEELING
SADDE THEIR
SCHOOL
DAYS.

MY HUSBAND,
UNFORTUNATELY,
JUST LEFT AND
WON'T BE BACK
FOR A FEW
HOURS.

IS THERE
SOMETHING
I CAN HELP
YOU WITH?

I'VE MISSED-
SAR AND MY
HUSBAND
WE'RE FEELING
SADDE THEIR
SCHOOL
DAYS.

MY HUSBAND,
UNFORTUNATELY,
JUST LEFT AND
WON'T BE BACK
FOR A FEW
HOURS.

IS THERE
SOMETHING
I CAN HELP
YOU WITH?



I'M SORRY
TO CALL OUT
OF THE BLUE
LIKE THIS

BUT I FOUND
YOUR NUMBER IN
DR. TAKASHIRO'S
OLD ADDRESS
BOOK. HE
TOLD ME ONCE
YOU WERE OLD
FRIENDS.



I'M SORRY
TO CALL OUT
OF THE BLUE
LIKE THIS

BUT I FOUND
YOUR NUMBER IN
DR. TAKASHIRO'S
OLD ADDRESS
BOOK. HE
TOLD ME ONCE
YOU WERE OLD
FRIENDS.

WELL...IT'S ABOUT TAKASHIHO-SENDERS PLATH. I WAS CURIOUS TO KNOW WHY HE DID IT.



What is
that
business?

WHERE ARE
YOU CALLING
FROM?

ALL RIGHT...
I'LL TELL YOU
WHAT I CAN

Then
MORROW

Why is
this woman
investigating
the Takashiro
family? She
just wants
to talk to me.
Well, there's
something
odd here.

A PLEASURE
TO MEET
YOU, I'M
KAZAMI

I WORKED
FOR EIGHTEEN
MONTHS
AT THE
TAKASHIRO
CLINIC

I'M SHIN
GO'S WIFE

SHIZUKA-SAN
AND MY
HUSBAND
WERE VERY
CLOSE





GO ON



A LONG-
HAIR'D GIRL
AND A BOY
WHO LOOKED
LIKE HIS SON
WERE THERE.
THEY TOLD ME
WHERE I COULD
FIND THE
GRAVESITE.



YOU SAID
THAT YOU
WENT TO
THE OLD
TAKASHIRO
HOUSE.

UHHH

WHAT
ARE YOU
FINDING OUT?



WHY ARE YOU
SNOOPING INTO
THESE FAMILY
MATTERS?



THE NURSE
I REPLACED
AT THE CLINIC
FIRST KNEW
ABOUT HIM,
OTHER.

WHERE
HAD HIS SON
BEEN ALL
THAT TIME?

I WAS
SURPRISED
I NEVER KNEW
HE HAD A SON.



I'M STILL NOT
COMFORTABLE WITH
YOUR REASONS
FOR WANTING
THIS INFORMATION.
ESPECIALLY
NOW THAT
TAKASHIRO-SAN
HAS PASSED ON.

HIS SON
GROW UP.



I MUST
BEEN RUDE
AND FOOLISH,
I KNOW.

AM
S-SORRY...
I KNOW
I--



SO
I WAITED
AND
WAITED

HE HAD
HIS GLASSES,
I SAID, SO,
ALL OF THEM
VERY PRIVATE.
I THOUGHT
MAYBE
HE CLOSED
THE CLINIC
TEMPORARILY.



BUT THEN
A BETTER
APPEAR. A BETTER
NOT WAITER
RECOMMEND
HE FOR A
JOB AT THE
HOSPITAL.

IT WAS
LIKE HE WAS
SUPPORT
PUSHING
EVERYONE
AWAY.

UH... IT'S JUST...
I ASKED--SHE--
CLOSED THE CLINIC
SO SUDDENLY.

BUT
HE' NEVER
TOLD ME
WHY HE DID
IT SO EASILY.



AND NOW,
I'VE BEEN
CALLED BACK
HOME

MY FATHER
HAS SUDDENLY
FALLN ILL



HE RUNS A SMALL
BUSINESS. ONCE
I GO TO HIM, I'LL
PROBABLY NEVER
RETURN TO TOKYO



THAT'S WHEN
I FOUND OUT
HE WAS DEAD

SO
BEFORE LEAVING,
I THOUGHT
I'D CONTACT
DR. TAKASHIRO
HE WAS SO KIND
TO ME, I WANTED
TO SAY GOODBYE



AT DR.
TAKASHIRO'S
REQUEST, I GOT
A JOB AT THE
UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL

I DIDN'T
HEAR FROM
THE DOCTOR
AFTER THAT.
I DIDN'T
THINK HE'D
WANT ME
TO HEAR FROM
ME, EITHER

AS FAR
AS I KNOW,
IT WAS ALL
BEHIND ME



AND I...
I...

WHY DID
FATHER ME
ANY SO
SUDDENLY

THAT'S
WHEN
I UNDER-
STOOD...



PEOPLE TOLD
ME HE KILLED
HIMSELF NOT
LONG AFTER
HE CLOSED
THE CLINIC













FUT WHERE'S
MOM'S GRAVE,
THEN?

ABOUT
FATHER'S GRAVE?

IT'S LIKE
I TOLD YOU
BEFORE.



WE HAVE
A GRAVESITE
NOT FAR
FROM HERE.

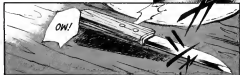
THE
TAKASHIMOS
GO BACK
CENTURIES.
OUR ANCESTORS,
GENERATION AFTER
GENERATION,
HAVE BEEN BURIED
TOGETHER.



I'VE
ONLY BEEN
THERE ONCE,
I THINK.

I DON'T
REMEM-
BER IT
VERY WELL,
THOUGH.

CHIZUNA







WHY BOTHER?

WHY DON'T
YOU LICK IT
CLEAN? IT'S
YOURS



YOU'RE
ALWAYS
HOLDING
BACK.
RESTRAINING
YOURSELF,
AREN'T
YOU?

COME
CLOSER





When
I'm gone,
who will
care for
Kazuma?



I'M ALL
RIGHT. I'VE
GOT IT UNDER
CONTROL.

FOR...



CHIZUMA

ARE YOU
REALLY FEELING
BETTER?







I HEARD THAT
THE DAUGHTER
HASN'T WELL.

WHAT KIND
OF ILLNESS
WAS IT?



TEN YEARS AGO,
THEIR MOTHER DIED
THEY WERE BOTH
SO YOUNG. IT WAS
A TERRIBLE BURDEN
ON CHIZURA-SAN.

MY
HUSBAND
AND I HAD
NO CHILDREN
SO WE
TOOK IN
KAZUNA.

THE
OLDER
CHILD, THE
DAUGHTER,
WAS
ILLING.



KAZUNA
WANTED TO BE BY
CHIZURA-SAN'S
SIDE, AND SO
HE MOVED IN
WITH HER.

CHIZURA-
SAN WAS
BORED WITH
A HEAVY
HEART.
SHE MAY
NOT LIVE
MUCH LONGER,
AND HE MUST
BRACE FOR THE
WORST AT ALL
TIMES.



.....





I have
to tell her
something

I'll
never
leave
her off
my mind

MO-MOMOKO-SAN
WAS ALSO HERE.
YOU SEE, HIS
PARENTS THOUGHT
SHE COULD NEVER
GIVE HIM CHILDREN



OH,
GOD

How close
she...? How
did she know
about that?



AND WHERE IS
SHE BURIED
NOW? IT'S HERE?



I don't
have the
slightest
clue.

MO-MOKO-
SAN'S
GRAVE?



WHEN SHE SAW,
SHIZUNA-SAN
BECAME TERRIBLY
DEPRESSED.

NEITHER MY
HUSBAND NOR
I KNOW THE
ANSWER TO
THAT ONE.



IS
THAT
SO...?



AND THEN,
ONE DAY,
WITHOUT
A WORD TO
ANYONE...

NEVER GIVING
US A CHANCE
TO OPPOSE HIM,
HE LEFT FOR
YOKOHAMA.



I APOLOGISE
FOR PUTTING
YOU OUT
LIKE THIS.

I'M
GRATEFUL
FOR YOUR
TIME.

THANK YOU
SO MUCH.

And
Mamochi-
san,
because
she was
change it—

—was
sincerely
drawn by
the flame
of us.





*I'm trying
hard to
remember,*



*Have I really
been there...
or was it just
a dream?*



*But
I don't have a
single memory
of Mother's
grave.*



Maybe
Father went
alone.

When did
I ever go
there?



I couldn't
look at her
grin.
Then I noticed
that Father
couldn't either.

How I
remember.
We turned
our eyes
away from
Mother.



...and I feel
at this point.

She was
such a
beautiful
woman. If
I can no
remember
her, though.

What
a horrible
memory of
Mother.
What
a horrible
day that
was.



第

37

話





What is
it she's
holding
back?



It just
doesn't fit.



God!
Why am I
obsessing?



Why do
I get the
feeling she
was keeping
something
from me?



And what
good would
knowing that
whole truth
do me,
anyway?

There's
nothing
more for
me here.



As for
me, I
should
move on.
Give up
these silly,
irrational
attachments.

It's
like
she
said.

The
doctor just
got worn
out.



千々
リィ



Are
these the
keys to the
Takahara
Clinic?

Are
these—?



Who'd
want
these old
keys?

Good, yes
I can't
believe I
still have
them.
The clinic's
shut down.
Who would
I return
these to?



*Maybe the
children
they might
have value
to them as
a keepsake*



*The old clinic
I wonder
what state
it's in now.*

*He's been
dead
a whole
year.*







What is
this all
about?

What'd one
thing old
place?
Why didn't
I know?

Someone's
got to be...



These
magnets
don't look
familiar.
They look
new.



These are
medical
charts from
all our old
patients.

These other
documents
are
outdated,
too.





Reports?

No, they
all look like
memos.



What's
this? It's in
English.

These
documents
don't look
confidential
at all.



Wasn't it
always
locked tight?

And this
drawer...



Why were
these papers so
confidential?

グッ
タッ

Gasp!

!!



フ
ッ



サ
ッ



I
- I'M THE NURSE

I USED TO
WORK HERE



WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING
HERE?

WHAT
THE
HELL?





...WAS
TAKASHIRO-
SENSEI?

SORRY
TO ASK,
BUT...



UM...

DID YOU
KNOW
TAKASHIRO-
SENSEI
IS ALIVE
WELL?



WELL
ENOUGH

WE WERE
LIKE FAMILY,
YOU COULD
SAY WHAT
ABOUT IT?



AND HOW
ABOUT THAT
KEY?

OH, YES!
HERE.



PLEASE
MIND

IT'S
NOTHING
FORGET
IT
I'M
SORRY
IF I
STARTLED
YOU





I ONLY
KNEW THAT
THERE WAS A
ROOM HERE AT
THE CLINIC.



YOU DON'T
KNOW WHO
SHE IS EITHER,
SHIN-SAN?



I WONDER
IF MY ANSWERS
SATISFIED HER.



SO I CAN SEE
WHY SHE'D WANT
TO KNOW THE
TRUTH BEHIND
HIS SUICIDE.

THAT WOMAN
SEEMED TO ME
SHE REALLY
CARED ABOUT
SHIZUNA-SAN.



AT THE END,
HE WAS TELLING
A BROKEN MAN.

WELL...
WHAT YOU
TOLD HER
WASN'T
FALSE.









Case
history
of a young
girl ..

...living
in North
America.



A disease that
manifests itself
as a violent urge
to consume other
people's blood..

This
girl,
since
child-
hood..
...has
suffered
symptoms
of a
disease.

"I remember
sometimes
feeling
a terrible
thirst."

"I couldn't quench
my thirst no
matter how much
water I drank.
I came to realize
that what I was
driving was
human blood."

"My friend
gave me
some of
her blood."

"When I
tried to
suppress
the thirst...

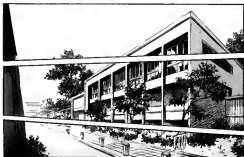
...it
became
too
difficult
an ordeal
for me."

"I finally
told a
friend
about my
cravings."

"When
I made
that
realization...

...I
couldn't
sleep at
night."







Reading Room







DID YOU FIND
ANYTHING
OUT FROM
HIS FOLKS?

I WONDERED
IF HE WAS
LYIN' ABOUT
TRANSFERRING
TO A DIFFERENT
SCHOOL.

RIGHT BEFORE
SUMMER, DIDNT
I GIVE YOU MY
REPORT CARD TO
GIVE TO HIM?

NO POINT
ABOUT IT
THERE'S
SOMETHING
ELSE HE
DIDNT WANT
TO TELL ME

HE TOLD
ME HE WAS
DROPPIN' OUT,
BUT I COULD
TELL HE WAS
FATTIN' ME ON

WHAT?
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
"FATTIN'?"

HE WAS
SCREAMIN'
TO GET ON
MY BACKER,
SO I STOPPED
ASKIN'
ANY MORE
QUESTIONS



Takeshima
Aren't you
leave at
school?

WHAT?

THAT
LAST DAY HE
SHOWED UP
AT SCHOOL...
DID YOU
HEAR ABOUT
THAT?

YOU KNOW
HE WAS
ACTIN' ALL
WEIRD THAT
LAST DAY
RIGHT?



WOULD
YOU MIND
LETTING ME
KNOW HOW
HE'S DOING
IN SCHOOL?



WHEN
THE FALL
SEMESTER
STARTS







HE JUST
LEFT
WITHOUT
SAYING
ANYTHING?

WHY DIDN'T
HE SAY
ANYTHING?

WHY-
WHY?



I THINK HE'S
LIVING WITH
HIS OLDER
SISTER NOW

LIKE I
SAID
I DON'T



AND
WHAT'S UP
WITH HIS
PAST?

HANG ON
NOW THAT
I THINK OF IT,
HE DID
MENTION
HER ONCE

HE'S GOT
AN OLDER
SISTER?



WHAT?!

HIS
FATHER
PASSED
AWAY A
YEAR AGO,
I THINK



I'M SORRY,
KIMURA-
KUN

I WISH I
COULD TELL
YOU MORE

HE
PROBABLY
DON'T
WANT US
HOOKEYING
ABOUT
HIM

I DON'T
KNOW,
BUT
BUT

I'm so
sorry,
Kimura-
kun







第 38 話







BE
ADVISED,
I DON'T
KNOW
ALL THE
DETAILS.

IT'S BEEN
CLASSIFIED
A BEHAVIORAL
PROBLEM
RATHER THAN
A MEDICAL
DISEASE.



YOU'VE HEARD OF
PEOPLE WHO DRINK
FRESH BLOOD AS
A HEALTH REMEDY?
IT'S LIKE THAT.

BUT IT STRIKES
ME AS SOMETHING
MORE TO DRUG
ADDICTION.



MAYBE.

BUT ITS
VICTIMS
ARE NOT
VAMPIRES
OR SUCH.

FROM WHAT
I UNDERSTAND
IF ITS VICTIMS
ARE DEPRIVED
OF BLOOD,
THEY DON'T
ATTACK
HUMANS.
THEY SIMPLY
FINDS
A WEAK
TASTE
FOR IT.



HUMAN BLOOD
SATISFIES A
PSYCHOLOGICAL
CRAVING.



OH...
IT'S MORE
A CURIOSITY,
REALLY.
JUST A
PERSONAL
INTEREST
IN THE
DISEASE.

TELL ME,
HOW DOES
THIS RELATE
TO YOUR OWN
WORK?



I'M
LEAVING
TOKYO
SOON.

YOU
CAN LEAVE
THE MEDICAL
PROFESSION.

BUT IT'LL
NEVER LEAVE
YOU, I
DARE.



YES,
THE POLICE
TAKED THINGS
AWAY FOR
ME.

WHEN
I WAS HERE,
I FELT LIKE
SUCH A
FOLLOE.



HELL, YOU'VE
LEFT AINLY
MOVED
OWNARDS AND
EITHERS
SINCE YOUR
FAYS HERE.

YOUR TIME
MOVING AT
TAKASHI-
KUN'S CLINE
HAS SERVED
FOR WELL.



I feel I understand
things even less now
why was Dr. Takashiro
so interested in
this disease?

I'm not getting
anywhere
asking doctors.

Why?

Why keep
everything
in the
dark?

And why
did he keep
his research
under lock
and key?





Maybe someone in his family has that disease



There was
no mention
of physical
complications
resulting from
the blood
drawings

But, if it
were just
psychological,
the symptoms
wouldn't be
this intensely
physical

In that
report...

*BUT THE MEDICAL
COMMUNITY HADN'T
ACKNOWLEDGED IT.*



"My friend
gave me some
of her blood."



"And let me
stirp her
blood from
a spoon."



"My friend
shaved her
finger with
a razor"



Sliced...







HOMEROOM'S
THE TIME FOR
ANNOUNCE-
MENTS, SO
LET'S SEE
WHAT HE
SOT



AA, GOOD
TO SEE
EVERYONE
BACK SO
SOONER

IT'S TIME
TO JUMP/ST/CT
THOSE BOOBS,
BECAUSE
WE'RE KITTING
THE BOOKS
STARTING
TOMORROW



HIS AGENT
FLIPPED UP

IT'S LIKE
YOU SAY,
YAGASHI-SAN,
THE DUPE IS
JUST SOME

LAST NIGHT
I CALLED
HIS PLACE



FOR
HE NEVER
SUCCEEDED

HIS AGENT
ASSUMED
HE'D BE
AT SCHOOL
FOR OPENING
CEREMONIES





I DON'T
THINK IT'S
A PROBLEM
WITH SCHOOL
ITSELF.

IT'S HIS
SISTER
HE LIVES
WITH HER,
AND HE'S
WORRIED
ABOUT HER
HEALTH.



DOES
IT HAVE
ANYTHING
TO DO
WITH HIS
ILLNESS?
OR IS IT
SCHOOL
ITSELF?

I UNDER-
STAND
KAZURA-
KUN NO
LONGER
LIVES
AT YOUR
RESIDENCE.

OTHERWISE,
HIS ABSEN-
TEEISM IS
WORTH
ACCOUNT
FOR.



I ASSUMED
HE'D BE
THERE TODAY.
I'M SORRY FOR
THE TROUBLE.

OF
COURSE.

YES.



REALLY?
I HAD
NO IDEA.

I
THOUGHT
HE WENT
RIGHT
BACK.

EH?

REAL—?



HE
KNOW THAT
KAZURA-KUN
FELL ILL
AND WAS
ADMITTED
TO THE
HOSPITAL.

PRIOR TO
SUMMER
BEGIN...

BUT AFTER
HE LEFT THE
HOSPITAL,
HE NEVER
CAME BACK
TO SCHOOL.





YEAH,
M...

MATTER
OF FACT,
I JUST
CALLED
HIS NAME.

YOU KIDS
HAVEN'T
HEARD
ANYTHING?



YOU HAVE
ANY CLUE
WHY HE WON'T
AT SCHOOL
ANYMORE?

HE
THOUGHT
YOUR
KID.



I
WASNA
ASK YOU
ABOUT
TAKA-
SHIRO

WHAT
IS IT,
KID-
SUIT AP?



SEEMS HIS
AUNT AND UNCLE
HARNT TALKED
TO HIM MUCH,
EITHER.

THINGS
SEEM PRETTY
MESSED UP,
SO I MIGHT
GET TOO PEEP
INTO IT WITH
HER.



HE TOLD
ME HE WAS
TRANSFER-
ING...

WHAT'S
REALLY
GOING ON?



THAT'S
NEWS TO
ME
HE TOLD
YOU
THAT?

TRANSFER-
ING?



AS A TEACHER,
IT'S NOT UP TO
ME TO MESSLE
IN FAMILY
CIRCUMSTANCES

YOU KNOW,
EDUCATION
ISNT
MANDATORY



ANYWAY, I'LL
NEED TO WORK
THIS OUT WITH
EITHER HIM OR
HIS GUARDIANS
EVENTUALLY

THERE'S
ALSO THE
MATTER
OF HIS
GRADES



WHAT THE
HELL'S
GOING ON?



WHATEVER IT IS,
IT'S ULTIMATELY
UP TO HIM TO
LET US IN ON IT



IT'S CRAZY!
HE CAN'T
EVEN TELL HIS
OWN FAMILY
ABOUT IT?

WHAT
HAPPENED
THAT HE CAN'T
EVEN SHOW
HIS FACE
AROUND HERE?



IT'S SO
BIZARRE.



.....



THIS IS WAY
TOO WEIRD

AND IF HE'S
SO SICK,
HOW COME HIS
AUNT DOESN'T
KNOW **SOMETHING**
ABOUT IT?

WHAT THE HELL
HAPPENED
BETWEEN HIM
AND HIS AUNT
AND UNCLE?



I'M
SORRY

So much
suspicion
already.
How long
can I keep
the truth
to myself?

Every-
body's
getting
too close
to this.



I FEEL SO
FREAKIN'
HELPLESS!
IT'S NOT
FAIR!

HE'S
REALLY
FIRING
ME OFF!



SAY,
I WISH
I'D HAVE
LISTENED
TO HIM

I THINK
HE TRIED TO
TELL ME
SOMETHING
THAT LAST
DAY OF
SCHOOL



KAZUMA



YOUR
AUNT EPA

WHO
FOUGHT?

A LET-
TER?









AFTER
LEAVE SCHOOL,
FOR THE MOST
PART, I WAS
ABLE TO GET
A HANDLE ON
MY ILLNESS.



AND IF YOU
SUFFER A MILD
ATTACK, YOU
CAN CONTROL IT.
CAN'T YOU?

I-É THINK
SO. I DON'T
HAVE MUCH
CONFIDENCE,
THOUGH.



YOUR BODY'S
GETTING USED
TO YOUR
CONDITION
NOW.

YOU'RE
A LITTLE
CARE.
YOU'RE
MALE AND
IMMUNE
TO THE
WILDLIFE.
YOUR
BODY'S
HANDLING
THE
WILDLIFE
IN WAYS
WE DON'T
KNOW
STAND.



NOW THAT I'M
A WOMAN, MY
ATTACKS HAVE
GOTTEN WORSE
AND HAPPEN
MORE OFTEN.



BUT
YOU'RE
NOT THE
SAME AS
ME.

YOU MIGHT
STILL HAVE
HOPE.













THE HOUSE
WAS EMPTY FOR
A LONG TIME
BUT IT'S HAD
AN OCCUPANT
NOW FOR ABOUT
A YEAR.

A YOUNG
MARRIED COUPLE
LIVED THERE
ONCE, LONG
AGO. THEY HAD
TWO CHILDREN.

I THINK IT'S
THE CHILDREN WHO
LIVE THERE NOW.
GOT NO IDEA WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THEIR PARENTS.

BUT, OVER
THE YEARS,
THEY'VE LET
GO OF A LOT
OF THEIR
PROPERTY.

I HEARD THAT
THE FAMILY
OWNED ALL THIS
LAND ONCE.



SHE
RARELY
EVER WENT
OUTSIDE.

BUT
SOMEONE
HEARD
THAT SHE
HAD SOME
ILLNESS
THAT LEFT
HER WEAK.

I DO REMEMBER
SEEING THE WIFE
ONCE. SHE WAS
A STRIKINGLY
BEAUTIFUL WOMAN,
YOU KNOW.



THANKS FOR
YOUR COOP-
ERATION.

IT'S OUR
JOB TO KEEP
TRACK OF ALL
THE GOINGS-ON
AMONG CITIZENS
IN THIS AREA.

YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEA WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THEM?

So the
Tatsushiro
house is
that old?



I wonder
if that
was the
family's
main
house.



But
she's
dead
now.

Does the
disease
end in
death?



Did she
also have
that same
disease?



So it's true
that the
wife was
also ailing.



MONOMO-SAN DOES
WEAR, YOU SEE.



*BUT, OVER THE
YEARS, THEY'VE
LET GO OF A LOT OF
THEIR PROPERTY.*



*If she came
from such an old
and prestigious
family, it must've
been a huge,
elaborate funeral*

*The neighbor
didn't know
the wife
had died*



*The family
must've gone
into decline
at some point?
But why?*











It's days after
I dream about
Mother that the
attacks hit me.



Why do I
have such
nightmares
about her?



But...

Mother
didn't have
the strength
to resist
these horrible
attacks.

Mother
was a kind
and loving
woman.

Perhaps things
would be
easier...



I fear
that one
day...

...I'll
become as
vulnerable
as her.

...if
I stopped
resisting
and became
like Munko,



Is it my
fear of
following
her fate
that keeps
me awake?









HEY?

BECAUSE
WE'RE GOING
TO SCHOOL
GET READY!



WHAT'S
GON'G
ON?

HEY
DO YOU
HAVE YOUR
UNIFORM
ON?



HEY?

SCHOOL...?

FOR
WHAT?



I'LL BE
WAITING AT
THE FRONT
GATE

LE - WAIT!
CHUDAN!





YOU'RE
RIGHT

IF IT GETS
TOO HARD,
I CAN ALWAYS
LEAVE EARLY
AND SO CAN YOU,
KAZUHA

IT'S TRUE
I NEVER HAD
FRIENDS,
AND IT CAN
GET TERRIBLY
BORING

I DON'T
STOP GOING
BECAUSE I
WANTED TO











YOU'RE
OBVIOUSLY
TIED UP
IN KNOTS
ABOUT IT

I WASHIT
GONNA FLY INTO
SOMETHING
YOU'RE OBVI-
OUSLY TRYIN' TO
KEEP LOCKED UP
INSIDE YOU



'COURSE IF
I WAS IN A
POSITION TO
HELP YOU,
YOU'D OPEN
YOUR MOUTH

AND YOU
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
KEEPIN' SHUT
FROM ME AND
YAGASHI-
SAY



WHY'D
HEAVY?

IT'S ABOUT
SOME DOCTOR,
RIGHT, WHO
TAKES SOME
POISON THAT
TURNS HIM INTO
SOME FREAK,
RIGHT?

HEAR
THAT? I
READ IT
IN GRADE
SCHOOL



KIND-
SHITA...

THERE'S
AN OLD STORY
I ONCE READ
"PE JEDOLL AND
MR HYDE" EVER
HEARD OF IT?



WHAT IF
ONE DAY...
...YOU
FOUND
YOURSELF
TURNING
INTO THAT
BEAST?

FEAR.



WHAT'S
THIS ALL
ABOUT?

WHAT
THE--?

WELL,
LUCY

...IF YOU FOUND
YOURSELF IN
THE GRIP OF
SOMETHING
WHERE YOU
COULD EASILY
HURT THOSE
AROUND YOU.

Do I tell
him? Do I
want him
caught up
in this?







But...
for some reason...
I don't
want it
here.



It all
reminds
me how
helpless...
And how
useless
that place
has always
been to me.



Do what you
have to, if
you go away
some time.

Heard that
the name.
During
the war.



Every minute,
I feel so
different
from
everyone else...
so terrified
of them.

I
remember...
when I
started
school.



But now
I don't.







I REALIZE ALL THIS SOUNDS
PRETTY BIZARRE.

SO... THAT'S
HOW I'VE BEEN
KEEPING AWAY
FROM EVERYBODY.

I DON'T REALLY
EXPECT PEOPLE
TO BELIEVE
MY STORY.

ANYWAY...







... IT'S
BETTER
THAN
HURTING
HER

POSSIBLE
OR NOT



BUT
IS
THAT
...
POSS-
SIBLE?



AND IT'S
WHY I LIED
TO YOU

JUST
LIKE THAT, I
SUPPOSEDLY HAD
TO SEPARATE
MYSELF FROM
EVERYBODY...



I THOUGHT
IT'D JUST
CHECK OUT.
NEVER SEE
ANYBODY
AGAIN



BECAUSE I'M MALE,
THE DISEASE
WOULD
PROBABLY
IN ME THAN
IN OTHER
TAKASHIMOS

THERE'S
A CHANCE
I COULD
SUPPRESS
IT PERMA-
NENTLY

CHIZUNA
THINKS SO.
ANYWAY, SHE'S
THE ONE WHO
SUGGESTED
I COME BACK
TO SCHOOL



IT'S WEIRD
BEING HERE
NOW.
TALKING TO
YOU

GOOD NEWS
IS THAT MY
SYMPTOMS
HAVE REALLY
CALLED IN THE
LAST MONTH





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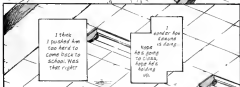


SURE!
ALL RIGHT
I'LL JUST
CHANGE
OUT OF
THOSE GYM
CLOTHES

IF YOU
NEED
ANYTHING,
JUST CALL
ME!

Getting
coming back
to school
was too
hard on me.

Not good.



I think
I pushed her
too hard to
come back to
school. Was
that right?

I
wonder how
Kazuma is doing.
Hope
he's going
to class.
Hope he's
holding
up.



I'll pass out.
But at least
Aki survive.

Maybe
Aki should
take it also,
come back
when Aki
feels it's
over.

We've got a
chance. We
may just
through his
illness and
get cured.



HOW
ARE YOU
FEELING?



YOUR
COLOR'S
COME BACK
AT LEAST.



THANKS,
SASAKI-
SAN.

I'M
DOING
ALL
RIGHT.

STILL
A LITTLE
WOOLY.



YOU
CHANGED
SO SOON!

I PLAY
SPORTS
EVERY
DAY, SO
I CHANGE
FAST.











But it's not
illness. Her
body's gotten
weaker, and
I notice her
gripped with
pain at times.

I feel
strong. My
symptoms
have
disappeared.



High
school
life is
the same
as it ever
was.

Munako
wasn't
opposed
her going
to school,
either.



Even
Chigusa's
got some
spark
nowadays.



But...



I never
thought
I'd return
to living
this life.
Especially
after what's
happened.









YOU THINK
IT'S *RIGHT* TO
GET TIED WITH
YOUR CLOSEST
FRIENDS?

DOES THAT
MEAN YOU'RE
GONNA AVOID
HER THE REST
OF YOUR LIFE?



"What
ever you
do,
do not
hurt
her."

One
thought
kept
coming
back to
me over
and over



BUT
I CAN'T
SLEEP
WHAT'LL
HAPPEN IF
I SEE HER
AGAIN

I DO
FEEL
PRETTY
GOOD
RIGHT
NOW

THERE'S A RISK
INVOLVED, AND
I WANT TO AVOID
IT MORE THAN
ANYTHING



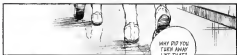
As long
as I feel
the way
I do about
Yaguchi...

I'll be
terrified
of another
attack. It's
best to keep
away from
her



I've satiated
myself on
her blood.
She's
obviously
more than
a sister
to me

What's
happened
between me
and Chigane
doesn't make
things easier





DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME...



DID SOMETHING HAPPEN OVER BREAK?

TAKASHIRO-KUN DOESN'T...

LOVE ME ANYMORE, THAT'S ALL



I JUST MISREAD THE SIGNS

IT'S ALL JUST THE SAME, YOU KNOW? WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

I've done all I can.



DID TAKASHIRO-KUN TELL YOU THAT?

THAT'S RIDICULOUS!



*As long as
he wants to
avoid me,
there's nothing
I can do*



WOULD
YOU BEING
SO COULD
ALL OF A
SUPPORT?

YOU'RE
ACTIV
WEEK?



IT'S NOT
SUPPORT
I'VE BEEN
GIVING IT
A LOT OF
THOUGHT
OVER
BREAK.

*We gave me
the whole scoop
I'll see if I can
smooth things over*

I SUSPECT
I WAS
HOPEING
HE'D COME
AROUND
EVENTU-
ALLY



YOU
MUSTA
HEARD,
HUNT?

WHAT?

YAGASHI!

SO... DON'T
TALKING YOUR-
SELF ABOUT
YAGASHI-
EUN ANYMORE



I GUESS
A BUNCH OF
PEOPLE HAVE
SEEN 'EM
AROUND
TOGETHER.

TAMAKA
TOLD ME,
AND SHE'S
KNOWN HIM
SINCE MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

THAT
TAKASHIRO-
KUN'S DATING
THIS PRETTY,
LONG-HAIRED
GIRL.

THAT
RUMOR
THAT'S
BEEN
GOING
AROUND?

EMI-CHAN,
HE ISN'T
DATING
THAT
GIRL.

That's
right!
Emi-chan
doesn't
know.

NO, I CAN
UNDER-
STAND
YOUR
ATTITUDE
ABOUT HIM
NOW.

SINCE ONLY I CAN
FEEL HIS PAIN

ONLY I CAN
HEAL KAZUNA





*I NEVER WANT
YOU TO SEE
KAZUNA AGAIN*



*I WANT YOU
TO FORGET.*



*Brother
and sister
separated
since they
were children*

YOU
GOT GUST
ALL OF A
SUDDEN

WHAT'S
WROG?



*...or like
lovers hiding
out from
the world*



FALLAHUT



*They might
be family,
but they're
really
strangers*





Respects: While INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT TAKASHIRO HOUSE
FAMILY REGISTER, Family register and identification cards all
confirm: Takashiro house. This are landmarks of Echigo
prefecture







The girl
And a lot of
stories to tell.

She
doesn't
seem
fussed
out at all
being
with me.

I haven't
felt this
relaxed
around
anyone
in a long
time.



THEN
MY OLDER
BROTHER
CHASED
THOSE
FOLLIES.



SO
WHAT
HAPPENED
NEXT?

Teen
head



I'd
forgotten
what it
felt like.

I'd
forgotten
how good
it felt.

Shooting
the breeze
with a friend
without
a care.
It's been
so long.





WELL,
NOTHING STAYS
THE SAME,
YOU KNOW?

THINGS
CHANGE AND
YOU CHANGE
WITH 'EM,
RIGHT?



A CIVIL
WARRIOR



I WISH
I COULD
STAY IN THIS
MOMENT
FOREVER



TIME AND
RECENTLY
THINGS
HAVE
CHANGED
FOR THE
BETTER.



I FEEL MORE
COMFORT.
FINALLY
LIKE MY
ILLNESS
WOULDN'T
CONTROL ME
ANYMORE



TAKASHIRO-
KUN'S DATING
THIS PRETTY,
LONG-HAIRED
GIRL





...from the boy
I remember
months ago



...he
looks so differ-
ent...



If he's
going to keep
his distance
from me...

...even when
he's getting
better...

...then
why should I
keep waiting
like this?







IT SEEMS
SOMEBODY'S
BEEN INVESTIGATING YOUR
CASE.



I CAME
BECAUSE YOU
MIGHT BE
INTERESTED IN
HEARING THIS



HER NAME
WOULDN'T BE
KAZAMI-SAN,
WOULD IT?

OH, GOD
DON'T TELL
ME



SHE
SHOWED
UP HERE
TWO WEEKS
AGO...

...AND SAID
SHE WAS
ONCE A NURSE
AT FATHER'S
CLINIC.

YOU
KNOW?



I WAS
AT THE
UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL
YESTERDAY

I SPOKE WITH
A COLLEAGUE
OF MINE THERE,
A DOCTOR WHO
ALSO USED
TO KNOW
TAKAHASHI-
SENSEI.

HE TOLD ME
A WEEK AGO A
WOMAN SHOWED
UP AND ASKED
HIM SEVERAL
QUESTIONS



WHAT
DID SHE
WANT?



I TOLD HER
I DIDN'T KNOW,
AND SHE LEFT
WITHOUT
A FUGG

WHAT
WAS IT
THAT?

SHE WAS
CURIOUS TO
KNOW WHO
FATHER
KILLED
HIMSELF



I FEAR
SHE FOUND
SOMETHING
WHILE
SNOOPING
AROUND AT
THE CLINIC

THAT'S
WHERE ALL
OF YOUR
FATHER'S
RESEARCH
WAS STORED



AND?





BUT WHO KNOWS?
IF SHE
DISCOVERS A
LINK BETWEEN
HIS SUICIDE
AND YOUR
FAMILY
BUSINESS...

SHE'S PROBABLY
HARDLOSS



SHE LOOKED
UP TO YOUR
FATHER AND
WOULDN'T
WANT TO
HURT HIS
REPUTATION

THAT DEPENDS
ON WHAT
SHE
WANTS



WHAT DO YOU
INTEND TO DO
ABOUT HER?



WHY DO
YOU NEED
TO KNOW?

NO,
I HAD
NEVER
TOLD



I'VE BEEN
HAVING
A LOT OF
DISTURBING
DREAMS
ABOUT
MOTHER



MRASE-SAN,
A CHANGE
OF SUBJECT,
BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING
I NEED TO
ASK YOU

WHERE IS
MOTHER'S
GRAVE? DO
YOU KNOW?

IT'S WORRYING
ME. I WONDER
WHAT THESE
DREAMS MIGHT
MEAN.

WHEN
I'M AWAKE,
I CAN ONLY
REMEMBER VAGUE
MEMORIES
OF HER.



I'M
AFRAID

I FEAR THE
DREAM WILL
END IN A WAY
TOO HORRIBLE
TO IMAGINE

I WAKE UP
BEFORE THE
DREAM ENDS
FEELING SO
FEARFUL



Continued in
Lament of the Little Maiden 7





I hate to sound dramatic, but I get the uneasy sense that things are all coming to a tragic close very soon. Being back at school is surreal. For the most part, I feel fine...but every time I see Yaogashi in the hallway, strange passions crawl their way back to the surface. I feel guilty about hurting her feelings, but I must keep her at arm's length. I'm struggling the best I can to live a normal life, and although I think that Kinoshita and I can rebuild our friendship, I'm terrified that everything will ultimately end in disaster.

In particular, I'm worried about Chiguna. I keep having the same dream: Chiguna is back at school, and she loses control, killing a student...drinking the blood fresh from the victim's wound. No matter how pessimistic I feel about my own situation, I feel even more certain that Chiguna's fate is doomed...